

the Imperial Conference of 1911, the prestige and status of the High Commissioner steadily advanced until, just prior to the First World War, his diplomatic functions and status were recognized by the British Government as having almost the importance which Lord Lorne had wished to give them as early as 1885. This accession of importance was gained during the long regime of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and was enhanced at the beginning of the War in 1914 by Borden's appointment of Sir George Perley to the London post, and as a result of the wartime demands on the Canadian Office.

It may be of interest to record the notes of William L. Griffith, in 1911, Secretary to the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada. In his book The Dominion of Canada, published that year, he reviews the origin and history of that Office since 1880, and concludes:

When it was first established the High Commissioner's Office was not well known, and received but little attention from the powers that were. It has, however, as the years rolled on, steadily grown in importance and, it can safely be said that, largely through its efforts, Canada has become, in Great